

Poems from the Foxhole

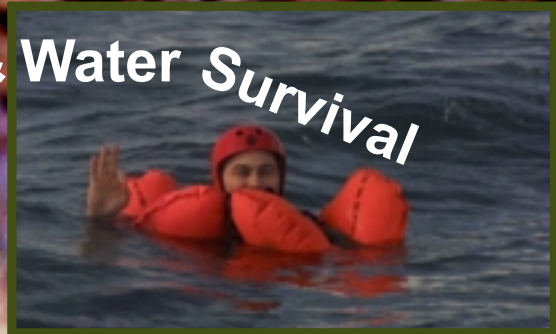
Summer 2001

THE WOLVERINE GUARD

**Guard Deployments
to the Desert,
Bosnia,
and
the Land of the
Rising Sun**



Also Land & Water Survival



A publication of the Michigan Army and Air National Guard
www.MichGuard.com

Bullets

Attention: High School Students

Applications for the 18th Annual Michigan Freedom Academy will be accepted through July 6. The Freedom Academy is a week-long leadership development program for high school students with a 3.0 grade point average or better who are preparing to enter their junior or senior year. This year's academy will be held July 22-27 at the Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center. There is no cost to attend except for a \$20 refundable registration fee. For more information, contact 1st Lt. Bill Wilcox at (517) 483-5888 or e-mail him at william.wilcox@mi.ngb.army.mil. Information and applications are also available at www.mich-freedomacademy.org.

Correction

In the Spring Issue of *The Wolverine Guard*, we incorrectly identified the two soldiers from Company B(-), 156th Signal Battalion, Adrian, pulling an ahkio. They are Staff Sgt. Gregory Fairbanks and Sgt. Bradford Dillon.

SGLI Benefit Increases to \$250K

On April 1, the maximum coverage for Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance automatically increased from \$200,000 to \$250,000. The cost for the maximum coverage is \$20 per month. Soldiers and airmen who do not want the maximum coverage should contact their full-time unit representative.

Retirement Legislation

The State of Michigan recently passed a bill that increases a surviving spouse's state military retirement benefit from \$300 per year to \$500. An amendment was also added stating that spouses of deceased Guard members who have at least 19 years, six months, and one day of Michigan service are eligible for the state military retirement benefit.

Personalized TRICARE Help

A new customer service option from TRICARE, the TRICARE Help E-Mail Service, gives military members and their families individual answers for individual questions via e-mail. This customer

service option is not an Internet site where you sort through a "frequently asked questions" section. Rather, it offers old fashioned, one-on-one customer service via digital communication. The e-mail address is TRICARE_help@amedd.army.mil.

Deployed Technician News

Congress recently voted to pay for 100 percent of Federal Employees Health Benefits for military technicians when they are deployed. This benefit allows technicians to maintain their normal health care coverage for their families at no cost.

Annual Warrant Officer Meeting

The Annual Warrant Officer Association Meeting will be held Tuesday, Aug. 21, 6 p.m. at the Camp Grayling Officer's Club. All current and retired warrant officers are invited to attend. A grill-your-own steak or chicken dinner is available for \$12. Civilian attire. Briefings will include warrant officer education and the warrant officer mentorship program. Please RSVP with Warrant Officer Joe Floriano at (906) 485-4645 or e-mail him at florianojw@mi-armg.ngb.army.mil.

Warrant Officer Open House

A Warrant Officer Recruiting Open House will be held on Tuesday, Aug. 21, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Camp Grayling Officer's Club. Any soldier interested in becoming a warrant officer is encouraged to attend.

Automatic Retirement Benefit

At age 60, when traditional National Guard members begin to receive military retirement pay, TRICARE medical and pharmacy benefits automatically kick in. At age 65, when most retirees begin receiving Medicare, the TRICARE pharmacy program changes to TRICARE Senior Pharmacy Program; however, the coverage is the same. In most cases, TRICARE is used as a "last payer," picking up any co-pays or expenses that are not covered under other medical insurance or Medicare. To ensure you receive this automatic benefit, your DEERS information must be up-to-date and, at age 65, you must be enrolled in Medicare Part B. To update your DEERS information, visit any military personnel office or mail the changes to DEERS Support Office, ATTN: COA, 400 Gigling Road, Seaside, CA 93955-6771. For more information on TRICARE and the

TRICARE Pharmacy Program, visit the TRICARE web site at www.tricare.osd.mil or contact Mr. Kenneth Baldwin, State Military Retirement Program administrator, Michigan National Guard at (517) 483-5692. You may also e-mail him at kenneth.baldwin@mi.ngb.army.mil.

Year of the Employer

The National Guard Bureau has designated 2001 as "Year of the Employer," an initiative designed to recognize and strengthen employer support. The summer months can be an ideal time to invite your civilian boss to see your unit in action: give your boss a tour of the armory and introduce him to your other bosses, the commander and first sergeant; present your boss with a "Employer Recognition" certificate during the next employee meeting; save your next MRE and share it with your civilian co-workers; give your boss a copy of your unit's drill schedule and unit newsletter and/or *The Wolverine Guard*; and publish "good news" in local newspapers to highlight supportive employers.

New Stamp

The U.S. Postal has issued a new stamp that honors the patriotic dedication of men and women who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces. The stamp also recognizes the many ways veterans continue to serve their country, their fellow veterans and their communities. The present population of U.S. veterans is estimated to be nearly 25 million.



Not Just for the Generals

Sitting on a gentle incline with a commanding view of Lake Margrethe, the Camp Grayling Officer's Club lends an air of beauty and relaxation to an otherwise austere military setting. Built in 1917, the original function of the O'Club was to accommodate the Governor during the annual review of troops. The ballroom was used for the Governor's Ball and a variety of other formal military events. Although the club is still visited by dignitaries, sometimes it is not frequented by our own. The O'Club is open to all warrant and commissioned officers for social and business events. Rooms and carryout beer are also available. For more information call (989) 348-9033.



TAG TALK



School's Out...Camp's In

This summer, thousands of kids of all ages from across Michigan will take advantage of programs sponsored and supported by the Michigan National Guard.

In addition to the six programs sponsored by the Guard--Trailblazer Camp, Freedom Academy, Young Heroes, STARBASE, Explorers and Challenge--we will also host and support numerous youth organizations in the conduct of events, camps and training.

Thanks to all of you, our own Trailblazer Camp has been filled to capacity every year since it began in 1994. For almost 20 years, the Freedom Academy has given new meaning to democracy and liberty for thousands of Michigan's best and brightest high school students. The Young Heroes program has been recognizing the noble struggle of youth confronted by life threatening illness and physical challenges for almost 20 years, as well.



ChalleNGe



Trailblazer Camp



Young Heroes



Freedom Academy



STARBASE combines our dynamic aviation assets with education to get kids excited about math and science. The 22-week resident ChalleNGe program offers high school drop-outs a second chance to earn a diploma or GED, supplemented with work experience and community service, before they graduate. Our Explorer Posts capitalize on Scoutings' adventure and leadership training to build character, inspire self-esteem, confidence and values.

While we have a vested interest in our own youth programs, we've always been ready to lend a hand to organizations seeking our support. Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, the Civil Air Patrol and others regularly visit Camp Grayling, Fort Custer and the Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center.

This summer, for the first time ever, the Michigan Army Guard will support nearly 800 Junior ROTC cadets for their summer camp at the Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center. Already this year, hundreds of kids have been touched by the Guard in programs like the Congressional Student Leadership Summit and Drug Education for Youth, not to mention numerous school field trips and displays.

The incomparable dedication and service of our Guard members to helping youth reflects one of the greatest contributions we make to enrich the quality of life in our state and nation. Our work with Michigan's kids is a treasured testament to the men and women in our organization who go the extra mile to make a difference in a young person's life.

For more information about our youth programs, you can check out the Michigan National Guard Web site at www.michguard.com or call the following:

Freedom Academy (seats still available for the 22-27 July class) (517) 483-5548; Youth ChalleNGe, 1-800-372-0523; STARBASE, (810) 307-4884; Young Heroes, (810) 307-4774; Trailblazer Camp, (517) 483-5838; Explorers, (517) 483-5621.

E. Gordon Stump
The Adjutant General of Michigan



Explorers



STARBASE

The Quality Readiness Approach at Selfridge

*By Capt. Rodney Williams
127th Wing Quality Advisor*

For the second time in three years, the 127th Wing at Selfridge has been awarded the TAG Quality Cup, Bronze Award. Maj. Gen. E. Gordon Stump, the adjutant general of Michigan, presented the award to 10 members of the 127th Wing Readiness Team for their continuous improvement in preparing the Wing for nuclear, biological and chemical accidents or attacks.

In the past 24 months, the team monitored and executed the entire wing's readiness program, as well as, their interaction with other military, state, local and civilian agencies for external programs. Using a prioritization matrix, the team created four effective programs.

First, the team provided NBC Defense training to approximately 1,800 wing members.

Next, the team working with the Bio-Environmental Engineering section established a Quantitative Fit Test program using the Air National Guard Implementation Guide. They educated the 127th on this new program, and in less than one year, fit tested more than 1,400 members. The fit test program is considered a benchmark within the Air National Guard and numerous active duty organizations and civilian agencies have contacted them asking the team for the training.



Third, the team conducted multiple Major Accident Response Exercises (MARE) which culminated into a massive MARE involving a C-130 crash with casualties and collateral damage both on and off base. The team worked with the Macomb County Office of Emergency Management and planned a response from all base organizations including the Coast Guard, Department of Defense Police, five civilian hospitals, five civilian ambulance companies, 17 civilian fire departments and the Salvation Army. The exercise tested the communication between the military and civilian functions and allowed each to see how their counterpart worked.

Finally, the Readiness Team implemented the Essential Information System (EIS) program, which is now mandated throughout the Air National Guard. The 127th is one of three Guard bases that currently have EIS as a functional program and receive many requests for assistance from other Guard bases.



Members of the 127th Wing Readiness Team pose for a picture with Maj. Gen. E. Gordon Stump, the adjutant general and the TAG Quality Cup. From left to right are (back row) Tech Sgt. John Leslie, Master Sgt. Marian Livesay, Staff Sgt. Steven Jakle, Tech. Sgt. Raymond Carroll, Tech. Sgt. Robert Rogensues, Laura Stahl, (front) J.D. Davis, Maj. Gen. E. Gordon Stump and Lt. Col. J. Steven Krajnik. (Not photographed are Tech. Sgt. Brien Becks, Master Sgt. Perry Falk and Staff Sgt. Kevin Wood.) The Readiness Team received the award for their preparation for a nuclear, biological or chemical event. The top photo illustrates one such exercise.

THE WOLVERINE GUARD

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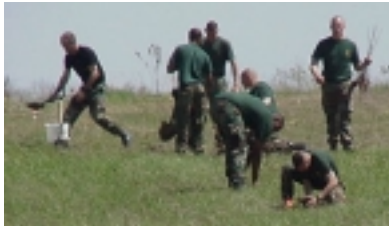
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1st Battalion, 119th Field Artillery shipped their humvees and howitzers via rail to Fort Irwin, Calif. for desert training. See story on pages 8-9. (Cover photo by Sgt. 1st Class Dan Werner, 146th FSB)

Teaming-up

Detroit units of the 1st Battalion, 182nd Field Artillery (top, left) teamed-up with Detroit Police of the 3rd Precinct for Operation Clean Sweep. The Guard volunteers hauled old wood, scrap metal and other debris from city-owned property. During the event, many residents stopped by to thank the Guardsmen. (Photo by Spc. Marlon Smith, 1st Battalion, 182nd Field Artillery unit public affairs representative)



Members of the Fort Custer environmental office joined Michigan Youth ChalleNGe Academy cadets (bottom, left) for Earth Day activities. Participants planted 150 red maple seedlings at Fort Custer along 26th Street and conducted a survey of the yellow fumewort, a state-threatened plant found at Fort Custer. (Photo by 1st Lt. Andrew Kuhns, STARC Environmental Section)

Spc. Wayne Finner, State Medical Detachment, Detroit, draws blood from Sgt. Wilburn Andrews, Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 182nd Field Artillery, Detroit. Andrews' name, and 90 other Guard volunteers, were recently added to the Department of Defense Marrow Donor registry. The registry, which matches potential donors with patients who have fatal blood diseases, also provides contingency support to Department of Defense casualties in the event of a weapons of mass destruction incident. (Photo by Maj. Vito Ciaravino, State Medical Detachment)



Recruiting and Retention

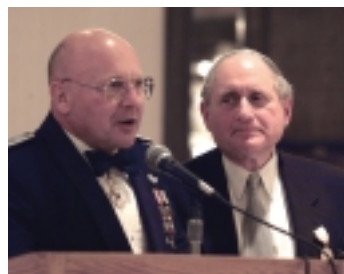
During a "recruiting and retention mission," Spc. Jeffrey Gilbert (far left) and other members of the 107th Quartermaster Battalion, Jackson, went bowling in MOPP 1 and reported back to their commander that the mission was a success. In addition to turning heads at the Jackson Bowling Alley, the soldiers gathered leads and had fun trying to function in MOPP 1. Unconfirmed reports indicate the high game was 179 and the low game was 69.



Staff Sgt. Benny Warren (left) is the 107th Quartermaster Battalion NBC NCO. When it came time for him to re-up, a few deals had to be cut to retain him: Warren agreed to re-enlist but only if he could raise his right hand in the gas chamber with the battalion staff present. The staff agreed but Warren had to agree to six years rather than three. (Photos by Spc. Julia Wolf, 107th Quartermaster Battalion unit public affairs representative)

Special Recognition

U.S. Senator Carl Levin (left photo) and State Senator Philip Hoffman (right photo) were recently recognized by Maj. Gen. E. Gordon Stump, the adjutant general, for their support of the Michigan National Guard. Levin was presented with the First Michigan Volunteer Infantry Award for his efforts to secure millions of dollars in funding to improve Michigan Guard facilities. Hoffman, the driving force behind the creation of state educational assistance for Michigan Guard members, received the Adjutant General's Patriot Award.



(Photos by Tech. Sgt. Dale Atkins, 110th Communication Flight)

107th Red Devils Like it Hot

By Capt. George DiMichele
127th Wing



It is said that red devils like it hot. So last January, when Michigan's weather was in the "deep freeze," the 107th Fighter Squadron's "red devils" headed for warm and sunny Holloman Air Force Base, N.M., for winter basing.

The two-week deployment included 125 airmen and ten F-16 fighter jets from Selfridge Air National Guard Base.

"Holloman best simulates real world conditions," said Lt. Col. Rick Mattson, unit commander. "The 107th flew air-to-air dogfights and missions against German F-4 fighters, which were also training at the base."

Other training opportunities included a rare chance to train with night vision goggles and the deployment of a large force consisting of numerous aircraft flying together.

The training highlighted the latest battlefield technology--the Theater Airborne Reconnaissance System (TARS) pod--and the 107th, along with the 192nd Fighter Wing, Virginia Air National Guard were the first Air Force flying units to operate it. The "Red Devils" are now writing the Air Force TARS manual.

The TARS hardware, which looks like a big canoe, is mounted to the belly of the F-16. Its purpose is to take digital pictures of potential battlefield targets. During their deployment, the 107th used the TARS system to acquire images of a new live fire range.



Millennium Shark Land and Water Survival 2001

By Capt. George DiMichele
127th Wing

A jet ski may not have a military nomenclature but it found a military training use at Key West Naval Air Station, Fla. This past February, during a two-day land and water survival refresher training course, instructors used a jet ski to tow students of the 171st Airlift Squadron, simulating the drag and pull of a parachute across water in high winds.

On day one, in addition to the "jet ski drag," students were instructed on raft survival, extraction by helicopter and parachuting into the water. To provide realism, parasailing was used to simulate parachuting from a plane and the Navy provided a helicopter and crew to extract aircrew floating on survival rafts in the Atlantic Ocean.

On the second day, personnel planted their feet firmly on the ground for land survival training and concentrated on escape and evasion. Map reading, locating food and water, camouflage,

self-aid/buddy care, radio communications and the like were the focus.

The best way to measure the success of this training is to see how it has grown over the last 15 years. What started as a modest attempt to satisfy survival refresher training in the mid-1980s, has grown into an operation that requires almost year round planning. This year, participants ranging from airman to general, came from Oregon, Puerto Rico, Texas, Florida, Colorado, Louisiana, the National Guard Bureau and, of course, Michigan, where the concept originated. "If they keep coming back and bring their friends, you know you're doing a good job," said Tech. Sgt. Larry Burt, 171st Life Support Section, Selfridge.

Land of the Rising Sun

*By Capt. George DiMichele
127th Wing*

Japan is a long way from Michigan. It's on the other side of the Pacific Ocean -- the other side of the Earth. When it's day here, it's night there. Many consider Japan a far off land. To others she was the country that bombed Pearl Harbor during World War II. Yet, Japan is much more. It is a nation with a long history and culture that stresses honorable living, responsibility and hard work. The foe of yesterday is the friend of today.

The 127th Medical Squadron couldn't resist the tug of curiosity and had to see the "land of the rising sun" for themselves. During the month of March, 45 medical personnel deployed to Kadena Air Base on the Japanese island of Okinawa. While there, they practiced their medical skills, integrated with their active duty counterparts, practiced their ATSO in unfamiliar surroundings and participated in a mass casualty exercise with the 320th Special Tactics Squadron. "It was one of the best training experiences I've had in my military career," said Lt. Col. Brad Eisenbrey, the Medical Squadron Commander. "In the event of a national emergency, it becomes critically important for us to be able to quickly and effectively integrate with the active duty Air Force," said Master Sgt. Roger Thompson of the Medical Squadron.

Many squadron members found the



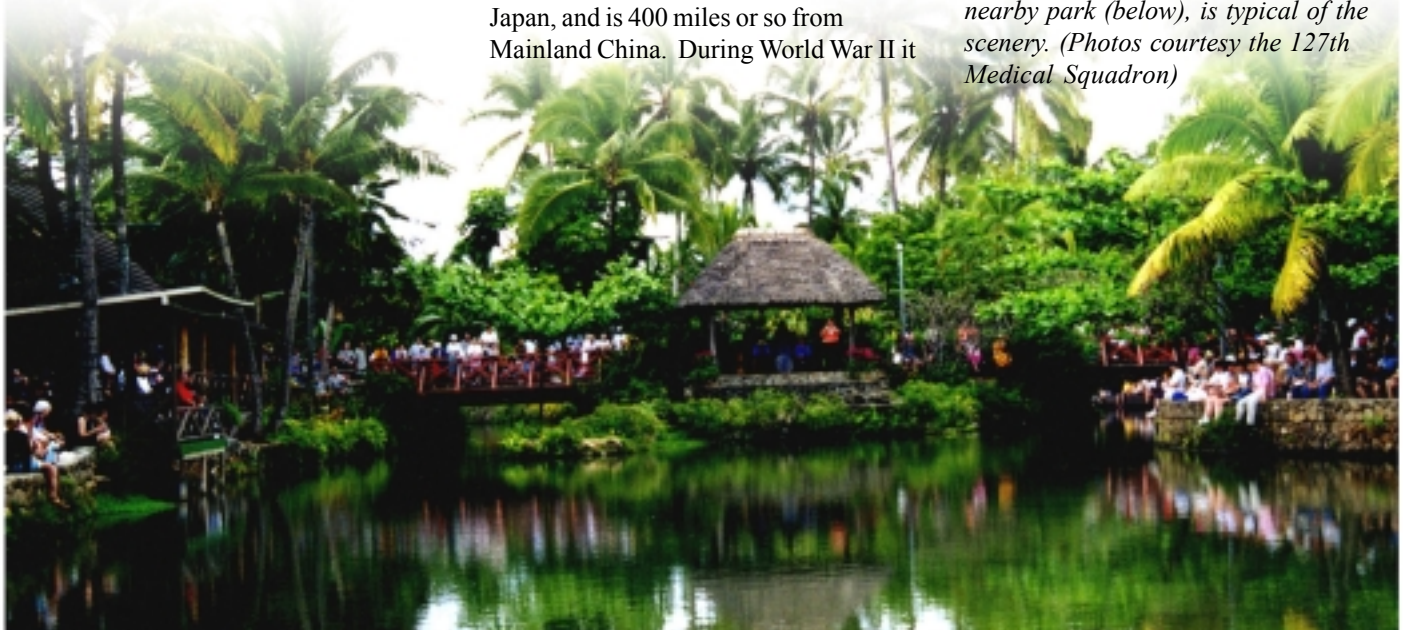
experience gained working with the 18th Medical Group fascinating and fun. Two weeks were over very quickly so there was not a lot of time to get bored with the small island's surroundings. MWR was very helpful. Being on an island, one could engage in practically every water sport imaginable. There was plenty of traditional Japanese cuisine to sample. New friendships to be made with active duty personnel. And the opportunity to showcase the combat capability of one of the premier medical units in the Air National Guard.

While relatively small, compared to the main Japanese islands, Okinawa's importance to America is disproportional to its size. Situated at the extreme southern tip of the Japanese home islands, it is an important defense link in the United States' western Pacific presence. The island sets almost equal distance between Taiwan and Kyushu Japan, and is 400 miles or so from Mainland China. During World War II it

was the scene of some of the worst fighting in the Pacific war. The U.S. Invasion in 1945 cost both nation's thousands of troops. It is a great testament to post-war U.S. Foreign Policy that both nations are such close friends today.

The Medical Squadron's trip, on a small scale, helped reinforce that nation-to-nation friendship as a Michigan Air National Guard unit traveled thousands of miles to train with the active Air Force on an allies' soil. And by doing so they all returned home with a broader military appreciation for the active Air Force and a deeper cultural appreciation for our Asian ally, Japan.

The 127th Medical Squadron (top) pose in the courtyard at Kadena Air Base in Okinawa. A Japanese statue, one of many found on the island, poses with them. The lush tropical vegetation at a nearby park (below), is typical of the scenery. (Photos courtesy the 127th Medical Squadron)



High Tech in the High Desert

119th Trains for Digital Warfare at Fort Irwin

*By Master Sgt. Tom Springer
State Public Affairs Office*

FORT IRWIN, Calif. – What does the 21st century Army look like when it goes to the field? As always, there's an abundance of dusty boots, sweaty fatigues and mud-splattered vehicles. But there's also satellite-linked computers in every tank, radios that no longer rely on human voices and MREs that feature red beans and rice burritos as an entrée.

It's a world where digital information



Sgt. Doug Patterson and Staff Sgt. Matthew Patrick (above, left) plot artillery fire coordinates. Pfc. Ezequiel Flores (above, right) tests a water sample for purity. (Photos by Master Sgt. Tom Springer, State Public Affairs)

moves in milliseconds, from the lowest private to the highest levels of command. Where the rapid pace of battle requires sergeants and lieutenants to make decisions once made by colonels and generals. Where combat soldiers, just like civilian desk jockeys, begin to panic whenever their hard drives crash.

Such was the environment that faced 300 members of the 119th Field Artillery who deployed to Fort Irwin's National Training Center (NTC) from March 24 through April 12. The Michigan Guard soldiers took part in the Digital Capstone Exercise, which involved more than 15,000 troops and was the largest event of its kind ever held at NTC. The exercise tested the Army's ability to send battle orders via computer, instead of using traditional voice and radio communications.

The 119th acted as the enemy – officially known as the Opposing Force, or OPFOR. They assisted the Army's 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, which serves as the "full-time bad guys" for war games at Fort Irwin." To make the exercise more like an actual deployment, the Michigan soldiers shipped 80 Humvees and 14 self-propelled howitzers from rail yards in Lansing and Grayling.

"NTC is the world's best training center, and we're here to help train the Army of the future," said 1st Lt. Derek Klein, executive officer of Battery C, 1/119th. "After 15 years at Camp Grayling, it's great to come somewhere else. Training here makes us rely more on our abilities and equipment than on prior experience."

The exercise pitted the OPFOR against the 4th Infantry Division from Fort Hood, Texas. Billed as the Army's first digitally networked division, the 4th Infantry's technology includes on-board



Hand and arm signals move this mighty M109A5 howitzer. Humvees and self-propelled howitzers, shipped to the NTC by the 1st Battalion, 119th Field Artillery; top photo by Master Sgt. Tom Springer, State Public Affairs

computers that pinpoint the location of enemy and friendly forces. Data from satellites, unmanned aircraft and robotic sensors are also part of the high tech arsenal.

Large-scale maneuvers are important, Army officials say, because they've yet to perfect these multi-billion dollar systems. Even the extra-sturdy computers used by the military often break down under rugged field conditions. And despite the wealth of electronic intelligence, a blinking icon on a screen may or may not mean that an enemy force is present. In the fog of war, it still takes guesswork to coordinate the movement of troops and equipment.

Since the mid-1990s, the 119th Field Artillery has used hand-held computers to aim and fire the 155mm cannons in their self-propelled howitzers. Yet before they visited NTC, the 119th had never been able to send this information to a



...tzer (center). Staff Sgt. Christopher Hale and Spc. Michael Smith (top, right) mount a .50 caliber machine gun on their self-propelled howitzer. The vehicles were transported from Lansing and Grayling via rail, (bottom, right) wait patiently in the harsh Mojave Desert sun. (Center and bottom photos courtesy of Staff Sgt. Tom Springer, State Public Affairs)

higher headquarters.

"We haven't had a system that allows us to coordinate with other units," said Staff Sgt. Matthew Patrick, of Battery B, 1/119th. "Out here, we're linked digitally all the way to the regimental commander."

In the days before hand-held computers, requests for artillery fire were sent verbally, via radio. Forward observers called in map coordinates, which were converted into mills (a unit of measurement), and relayed by voice to each gun crew. Sending requests by voice took about one minute, whereas transmitting them digitally takes about two seconds. "When it works – which isn't all the time – it works great," Patrick said.

NTC is a harsh environment for soldiers and their equipment. Located in the Mojave Desert of southern California, NTC's training area spans more than 640,000 acres – about 4.5 times the size of Camp Grayling. Even in late March,

afternoon temperatures can reach 90 degrees, and dip into the low 40s by early morning. The clear, desert air, combined with the vastness of Fort Irwin, also makes it hard for newcomers to gauge distances. A hill that looks close by can easily be five or 10 miles away.

Navigating unfamiliar terrain in the inky darkness of a desert night was another challenge. "We've used equipment and tactics at NTC that we don't use at Grayling," said 1st Lt. Ryder Russell, commander of Battery C, 1/119th. "For the first time ever, we had guys drive howitzers with night vision goggles, under only 5 percent illumination."

The 119th's howitzers were outfitted with MILES harnesses, laser devices that allow them to shoot and be shot at during training. However, the 119th did not conduct live fire operations at NTC. They fired simulated missions and

rehearsed their crew drills by moving frequently during the fast-paced battle.

And for all the Army's high-tech gadgetry, the Mojave Desert around Fort Irwin remains a timeless landscape. The air is sweet with sagebrush, and at night, coyotes bark and wild burros wander through the canyons. It's a place where soldiers still need old-fashioned ingenuity to stay comfortable.

Using an Army poncho for a curtain, soldiers from Battery A rigged up a shower that hung from the barrel of a howitzer. To warm the water, they filled a five-gallon plastic bag and left it in the sun for a few hours.

"We came out here on March 26 and found they didn't have any showers, so we improvised our own," said 1st Sgt. Kenny Raymond, of Battery A, 1/119th Field Artillery. "After four days, you have to do something."

Times Like These are Rare

Michigan Guard in Bosnia

By Sgt. Rhonda Morgan
126th Press Camp Headquarters

For many active duty military members, there often comes a time when the name “daddy” molds into “sergeant” or “sir”; a time when the title “wife” has less value than the last four numbers of a social security number; and a time when college exams are not nearly as pressing as cleaning an M-16. But for the average Guardsman, times like these are rare.

April 1. The moment had finally come for the 11 members of the 126th Press Camp Headquarters, in Augusta, Mich. A time to allow their thoughts, now flooded with reminiscence of tight hugs and miniature waves, to drain into reality. Months before, immunizations, equipment inspections, endless training and numerous briefings allowed Bosnia to stay at a distance, geographically and mentally. Until now.

Prior to the deployment, members of the 126th were given several training tasks including firing a 9 mm pistol, the combat lifesavers course, common task training and Nuclear Biological Chemical exercises. The preparation itself had a huge impact on the attitudes and enthusiasm of unit members.

“Once we got into training, people became committed,” said Sgt. Maj. Sharlene A. Rotman, chief public affairs NCOIC. “Throughout the training, we got to see a new side to everybody.”

“The majority of soldiers here specifically requested a transfer into the unit because they knew of the deployment. This alone speaks volumes of their internal motivation,” said Maj. Tim Houchlei, deputy director of the Coalition Press Information Center.

In January, the unit participated in a two-week Mission Readiness Exercise (MRE) at Fort Polk, La. The MRE included real-life scenarios such as: reacting to riots, delivering briefings, writing accident stories and dealing with civilian media. There, they worked for the first time with eight members of the 1st detachment of the 126th Press Camp Headquarters, from Indianapolis, Ind. Before January, the two units had always trained separately. Both units quickly realized that a state line could not keep them from working together as unified professionals.

“As a high school coach, my mindset was to build one team. From the very first meeting, we gelled. There is no longer ‘the Indiana people’—‘the Michigan people;’ we are all part of the 126th PCH. At the MRE, we realized we needed them for their MOS-qualified people and they needed us,” said 1st Sgt. Robert J. Piper, first sergeant for the Press Center.

“As a unit, we benefited tremendously by working together toward the same goal. It was a welcomed relief to

“Even though they have been separated from their families and are surrounded by unexploded ordnance, they still play games and act like kids.”

—Spc. Jason Vance



Noah Houchlei hugs his dad, Maj. Timothy Houchlei during a pre-deployment briefing. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Dale Atkins, 110th Communications Flight)

work with them before the deployment,” said Houchlei.

Although the MRE prepared the 19 soldiers for the deployment, it still left a vacancy as to how far away leaving really was.

“I was anxious at first,” said Piper, “I didn’t have a good background history of Bosnia. It wasn’t until I gained a situational awareness of the history that I became comfortable with preparing other soldiers in the unit.”

“I was really looking forward to getting a chance to do a ‘real-life’ mission,” said Rotman.

The opportunity for a ‘real-life’ mission also comes with ‘real-life’ sacrifices. Final semesters of school,

upgrades in the workplace and everyday experiences as parents were put on hold as the deployment date approached.

“My biggest concern before deploying was the safety and well-being of my family,” said Houchlei, father of three, ages seven, four and three. “I was worried about them not having ‘daddy’ around. Six months in a 3-year-old’s life is one-sixth of their life that I’m not in, and that’s significant.”

“This deployment was a huge decision for me,” said Pfc. Jason Vance, administrative specialist for the Press Center and recent Advanced Individual Training graduate. “I have been in school my whole life, and then deciding not to go back, was difficult.”

“I gave up a high school head-coaching position for this deployment,” said Piper, “The only reason I took the (coaching) job, was to be with my son.”

Disappointments and sacrifices were soothed momentarily with excitement and anxiousness during the two-hour bus ride to Detroit followed by a flight to Atlanta. The weary group was then bused to the Conus Replacement Center at Fort Benning, Ga. During that time, members of the 126th underwent more immunizations, equipment issue, briefings and

lanes training that tested the leadership and physical abilities of the group. The soldiers remained at Fort Benning for seven days before flying to Germany.

The months of training, weeks of packing and hours of flight-time aboard a C-130 enroute to Bosnia-Herzegovina could not have prepared unit members of the 126th for the experience in which they were about to embark.

"I didn't really know what to expect," said Vance. "I was just coming to find out."

"You can read, see or look at anything attempting to get an idea of what this place is like," said Houchlei, "but you will never have a true understanding or appreciation until you live it."

Gaining a sense of understanding comes with going outside the barbed-wire fences and inside the locals' lives.

"I was given the opportunity to do a magic show at the Tuzla Refugee Center," recalled Vance. "Even though they have been separated from their families and are surrounded by unexploded ordnance, they still play games and act like kids. Besides the language barrier, you can't tell they are any different from American children."

"I didn't expect that after six years of secession of hostilities, the infrastructure would still be struggling so vitally, including the roads, trash, environment and the sanitation," said Rotman.

Although poverty, loss and the aftermath of war has left Bosnia-Herzegovina in a state of decay, the people refuse to allow the past to swallow their hopes.

"There is such a friendliness here," said Piper, "They have a sense of pride; they're not depressed. Overall, they have an

optimistic attitude towards us and what we are doing here."

Citizens of Bosnia-Herzegovina cling to ideas on the horizon for their country, government and future economics. They hope to gain just a little more than what is already theirs. Until these ideas are completed, U.S. soldiers contemplate on whether or not they are making a difference.

"As an individual, I don't feel as if I am making a differ-

ence and as a unit, I don't think I am making a difference," said Piper, "But as a member of the U.S. military, being incorporated in a peacekeeping mission, I know I am making a difference."

Separation from habit not only allows for loss but a different kind of gain while deployed.

"During this deployment, I hope to gain a truer respect for this place

and these people without all the filters from outside sources," stated Houchlei.

"After 21 years in the military, I hope to have a better sense of world awareness and an appreciation of what I have been given," said Piper.

Piper also added that he would like to see the unit continue to build off of this experience, and would enjoy having the Indiana detachment train with the 126th on a regular basis.

With many more days to go, individuals have already begun to daydream about their homecoming. In their minds, they push "play" on their "paused" lives and return to civilian life as a college student, a wife, a daddy.

"I plan to go home and watch my kids grow," said Houchlei.

***"After 21 years in the military,
I hope to have a better sense
of world awareness and an
appreciation of what I
have been given."***

—1st Sgt. Robert J. Piper



Spc. Jason Vance (left) performs a magic show for orphans at the Tuzla Refugee Center. Brig. Gen. Robert V. Taylor, the assistant adjutant general for Army, visited the 126th Press Camp Headquarters which includes a detachment from the Indiana National Guard. The Michigan troops pose for a picture in front of an armored humvee with Gen. Taylor and visiting Latvian soldiers (right). They are, from left to right, (back row) Capt. John McCabe, Capt. Joseph Jackson, Sgt. David Whitehead, Gen. Taylor, visiting Latvian lieutenant, visiting Latvian captain, Sgt. Maj. Sharlene Rotman, Lt. Col. Tom Lamie, (front row) visiting Latvian lieutenant, Sgt. Rhonda Morgan, Sgt. 1st Class Catherine Farrell, Pfc. Jason Vance, 1st Sgt. Robert Piper and Maj. Timothy Houchlei. (Photos courtesy 126th Press Camp Headquarters)

Getting Wired

Distance Learning Isn't So Distant

By Capt. Dawn Dancer
State Public Affairs

From the greatest technical minds within the Department of Defense, through the digital brains at the National Guard Bureau, down to the deep techy-thinkers here in the Michigan Guard, the military is getting wired for distance learning (DL).

In the early days, getting wired meant drinking too much coffee and distance learning meant watching Economics 101 on the local public broadcast affiliate. Today, with the use of the Internet, distance learning encompasses video conferencing, satellite broadcasts, videotaped presentations, web-based courses and computer-based courses.

Distance learning is expected to be a big benefit to the National Guard as it looks for improved ways to deliver cost efficient training and faster means of communication with Guard members. "One of the great features of the distance learning network is video-teleconferencing," said Dave Roach, chief of distance learning for the Michigan Army National Guard. "This will allow command and control without the windshield time."

With all this technology buzzing around us, the Department of Defense, like civilian educators and employers, must sort through the cables and the bandwidth and attempt to choose the correct technological path.

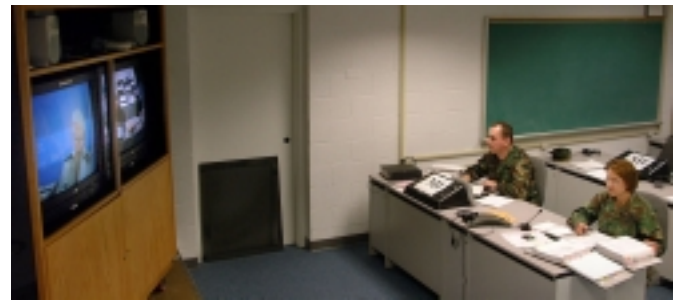
In recent years, each branch of the

service has separately invested in DL and now DoD, through the Advanced Distributed

Learning (ADL) initiative, is encouraging them to work together. "Recent steps have brought all the services together to implement DL into training wherever it's possible," said Master Sgt. John Kayko, superintendent for Air National Guard distance learning at the National Guard Bureau. "The Army Guard and Air Guard are already working together to share DL resources in common communities."

But, like phasing in new military equipment or changing a uniform style, change can be slow and not always welcome. "Any new training will have to be justified as to why it *cannot* be a DL course," said Kayko, referring to news from the Air Force Training and Education Review Process team which recently reviewed Air Force, Air Guard and Air Reserve courses. "This is a huge paradigm shift on how the Air Force will look at future training development. Whereas resident schools are the backbone of our training, DL will force trainers to reexamine methods of delivery."

Like the Air Force, the Army is working to make DL a training norm. "TRADOC is working with individual proponent schools to improve the



Guardsmen use video conferencing in the Lansing distance learning classroom, while the blackboard behind them remains bare. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Dale Atkins, 110th Communications Flight)

number of MOS producing courses available through the distance learning network," said Roach. "In the meantime, the Michigan Army National Guard, in conjunction with the Michigan Distance Learning Advisory Board, is gearing up by establishing and managing state-of-the-art distance learning classrooms throughout the state." The Michigan Army Guard will also market the classrooms to outside individuals, community groups and education facilities. A cooperative funding agreement was recently signed that allows the Michigan Guard to move forward with plans for this shared use.

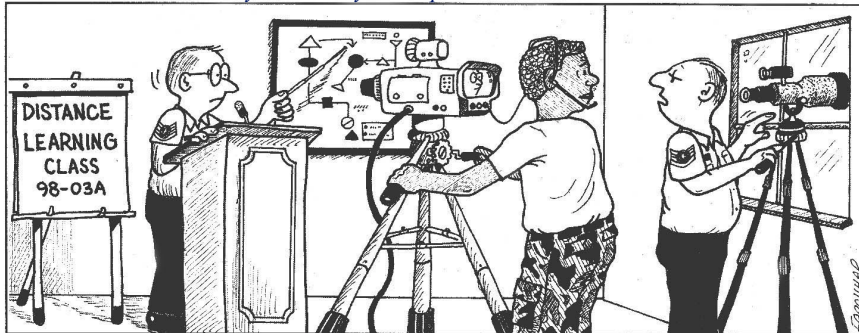
In the Army Guard, distance learning networks are hard-wired and use the GUARDNET network (the same backbone that supports RCAS—the Reserve Component Automated System) for delivery to individual classrooms. The Michigan Army Guard has DL classrooms in Lansing, Flint, Taylor, Wyoming, Fort Custer and Camp Grayling. Within the next two years, they are slated to receive sites in Jackson, Big Rapids, Sault Ste. Marie, Kingsford and Ishpeming.

The Air Force and Air Guard use satellite technology called the Air Warrior Network for delivery. Various classes are held at the Selfridge Air National Guard Base in Mount Clemens and at the Combat Readiness Training Center in Alpena. Trainers hope to soon expand those resources to the Battle Creek Air National Guard Base.

So, what comes next?

"I predict that wearable training devices will be here sooner than you think," said Kayko. Which may mean coffee drinkers will be dual-wired: caffeine in one hand and technology in the other.

GUARDTOONS, courtesy Lt. Col. Lyle Farquhar, Missouri National Guard



"Looks like we have someone with a question in Ishpeming."

A Sense of Patriotism...

Despite what the world might think

By Capt. John McMahon, Jr.

Each month, as I spend six hours saddled in the rolling cockpit of a Chevy Blazer on my round trips to and from Selfridge, I almost have too much time to think. As I cruise down US-27, millions of thoughts pass through my neural pathways.

This past month, I had a bit of a 70's flashback.

I remembered bits and pieces of my childhood hero. He wasn't a caped crusader or squinty-eyed American icon. He wasn't a medal winner nor did he blaze a path to glory with an M-16 and insurmountable odds. He was an ordinary soldier.

I remembered the last time he came home. It was father's day 1975. My parents left hastily in the middle of the night so I slinked out of my bunk bed to find my grandmother in the living room. Even at 10 years of age, I figured this was not going to be a good day.

My grandmother didn't mince words and in her distinctive Irish brogue, she told me straight out that my hero was dead. I wasn't really sure what that meant.

The funeral and the days of mourning are still vivid in my mind, nearly 25 years later. I remember Pvt. Warren, who stood guard at the casket, Capt. Bailey, who delivered the bad news to my maternal grandparents and the mile-long trail of cars behind the hearse. I remember the sound of "Taps" filtering into the mausoleum and feeling my body tense up at the first crackle of

the 21-gun salute.

This ordinary soldier was my uncle. At 21, he had a lot of living to do, he had been all over the world as a military policeman and had seen many things. He had a phone book of friends, from the girl next door to a helicopter pilot for King Hussein of Jordan.

It wasn't a bullet or a bomb that took his young life, it was an alcohol-related accident somewhere in Illinois.

When I completed basic training at Lackland Air Force Base ten years later, I found one of the letters he had written to me. It said, "Here I am, your Uncle Larry serving the country. I hope someday you will do the same..." Being a student of literature, I really appreciated the irony of the short phrase in that letter. I wonder if in the deep recesses of my mind, I recalled this and felt it was my mission to make it happen someday.

After I arrived at my parents' house this past UTA weekend, I looked on the wall as I entered their house and saw pictures of him and my grandfather next to mine—all of us in our uniforms from the Army, Navy and Air Force. In that moment, I realized some of the reasons why I make my three-hour trek to Selfridge. It is the spirit of their "generational shadow" that stands with me as I wear my uniform.

I was only given the gift of my uncle's presence for a brief time. He was an ordinary soldier who volunteered to serve in a time where the military's popularity was at rock bottom. His lasting gift to me was a sense of patriotism to my country despite what the world might think. It's a gift I hope to pass on to the next generation.

In memory of Sp4 Lawrence Sturtecky and dedicated to the spirit of the "generational shadows."

Poems from the Foxhole

A soldier sat in his foxhole deep
Half awake and half asleep
He hadn't washed for a week or more
His head was aching, his feet were sore
Waiting, waiting, since the war had begun
Expecting each day to see the one
That bore his address, his full name too
Even his phone, eight-five-four-two
Thoughts of a hospital on a hill
And maybe a six-foot hole to fill
No matter how tired, or badly hurt
Till the last heartbeat, he's on the alert
Though his chance is small, to survive that fate
He keeps his gall, his morale is great
Now his legs are gone, which are a part
Of his body replaced, by the purple heart
When this war is over and the battle is won
On crutches you see some mother's son
Greet him cheerily, he's not so small
For once he was handsome, strong and tall
You know our family's happiness
Was gained by our sons and nothing less
To them unlimited praise is due
For they went through hell for all of you.



Topic: war; a three letter word
Definition; a thundering herd
Stampeding wildly and running amuck
Villians, ruffians, blast the luck!
Winged construction that flies into space
Raining destruction on every race
Your fathers, brothers, sisters too
Are fighting, now, for all of you
With all their hearts and all their power
God speed them to that shining hour
When love and freedom, joy and mirth
Blot out forever this hell on Earth.

By Machinist Mate 3rd Class Clarence W. Conklin

Conklin was an E-4 in the Navy during World War II. He was stationed at Pearl Harbor and worked in construction. He passed away July 19, 2000. He was the grandfather of Sgt. 1st Class Jim Preston, a member of the Michigan National Guard.

Michigan Army and Air National Guard Promotions

Through April 30, 2001

Army Guard

Col.

Bobenmoyer, Keith J.
Johnson, Gregory D.
Purtee, David E.

Lt. Col.

Benson, Michael J.
Carter, Patricia A.
Cosgrove, Mark A.
Leatherman, Daniel
Murray, Martin S.
Soldano, Roger L.

Maj.

Brown, Theresa L.
Decker, Richard H.
Doddamane, Santosh
Keys, Leea L.
Koch, Kevin C.
Mcguire, Karen L.
Morang, Michael J.
Scheidler, Paul H.
Shirkey, Jim W.
Shoucair, Dean A.

Capt.

Allen, Daniel W.
Ellis, Jennifer L.
Hall, John C.
Humes, William R.
Kreykes, Todd M.
Nelson, Mark J.
Smith, Daniel L., Jr.
1st Lt.

Birgy, Patrick J.
Bremmer, Darin J.
Gregory, Dennis W.
Schmude, Paul C.
Suehr, Jack J.

Warrant Officer

Three

Cox, Roger
Garrett, Michael D.
Lawrence, Christopher
Miller, Mark E.
Plentis, Walter II

Warrant Officer

Two

Kuuttila, Cynthia A.

Sgt. Maj.

Algren, Scott V.
Bradley, Michael C.
Foy, Michael A.
Littles, Pauline
Master Sgt.
Andrykovich, David
Coler, Barbara A.
Edgerton, Louis S.
Ehrhardt, Frederick
Leslie, Donald R.
Morris, Wayne A.
Richardson, Randall
Slivoski, Steven P.
Torok, David V., Jr.
Sgt. 1st Class
Burleigh, Paul A.
Chio, Donald J.
Drake, Jonathan D.
Gibson, Jeffrey A.

Hall, Franklin L.
Hawkins, Morris L.
Kiersey, Laurie A.
MacConnell, Kendall
Milanowski, Stan A.
Richards, William E.
Rynes, Colleen L.
Teeter, Richard L.
Waltenburg, Carl F.
Weathers, Lewis J.
Youngblood, Richie L.

Staff Sgt.

Anderson, Kerry T.
Borden, Mary C.
Campbell, Cynthia J.
Clipper, Richard A.
Donnelly, Daniel S.
Fisher, Douglas E.
Hawk, Ted A.
Herubin, James W.
Holder, Karen E.
Jackson, Willie V.
Karaptian, Scott D.
Kovach, Kevin L.
Krauss, Frank L.
Maupin, Robert S.
Morrow, William E.
Netzley, Steven J.
Nora, Perry A.
Ottinger, Jay A.
Peppler, Lester L.
Pike, Duane I. II
Plantz, Christopher
Quinn, Derek J.
Shields, David L., Jr.
Swan, Priscilla A.
Thorman, Larry J.
Turner, Gillis L.

Sgt.

Abbott, Eric W.
Alford, Justin W.
Barrett, Tina S.
Bates, Timothy A.
Beatty, Brett A.
Black, Rhonda R.
Born, Aaron C.
Brink, Jason W.
Chambers, Jeri A.
Deno, Robert L.
Duhart, Anthony
Edwards, Jeffrey M.
Fernandez, Lynn M.
Grenda, Stephen D.
Hamilton, Jason A.
Harding, Jeremiah T.
Hite, James M.
Johnson, William D.
Klein, Donald E.
Lambert, Ronald T.
Lanczy, Lucas J.
Lindke, Patrick J.
Lundin, David R.
Martens, Keith F.
Mazza, Derren J.
McBride, Shawn R.
McDonough, James
Merrill, Kenneth R.
Micheals, John G.
Pinter, Kathryn A.
Powelson, Scott A.
Proehl, Benjamin P.

Reeves, Jack H.
Reynolds, Juana M.
Robins, James S.
Rumsey, Edward J.
Rundell, Ronald A.
Smith, Joshua L.
Sroka, Michelle R.
Storm, Aaron J.
Taylor, Todd D.
Trzecinski, David C.
Weaver, Todd D.
Worth, Rhonda S.
Yaniskivis, Joshua A.
Young, James A.
Zywicki, Christopher

Spc.

Baker, Victor A.
Bastian, Todd D.
Beck, Jordan C.
Betz, Robert C.
Beverly, Jeffrey
Billings, Envin E.
Boulton, James L.
Brown, Aaron J. II
Bussard, Nicholas D.
Campbell, David A.
Carr, Sylvester, Jr.
Chelilim, Kibeet
Cheng, Chetra
Clark, Jamie S.
Davis, Darrell L.
Demny, Matthew J.
Demorest, Jon P.
Draheim, William M.
Gavin, Jasin M.
Gibson, Christopher
Gorsuch, Kirke A.
Hooten, Timothy C.
Horman, Jacob W.
Horning, Matthew A.
Inks, Brandon C.
Julian, Edwin, Jr.
Kemp, Marie L.
Kendall, Joel A.
Kennedy, John D., Jr.
Kirschweg, Jeffery
Kozak, Michael J.
Kreiner, Neil R.
Maxon, Derek S.
Mccombs, Michael R.
Mikkelborg, Jason A.
Near, Melanie L.
Owens, Della E.
Paradine, Joseph R.
Pfeiffer, Joseph M.
Pirch, Andrew R. II
Press, Benjamin R.
Reid, Gerald D.
Riha, Kevin K.
Rogers, Michael R.
Ross, Roger A.
Sabourin, Brian P.
Scholz, Rickland L. II
Schultz, Jonathan P.
Shepperly, Jason L.
Simon, Jonathon H.
Smith, Brian S.
Smith, Jessica J.
Taylor, Roderick D.
Thorson, Brian L.
Thrash, Adam S.

Torres, Juan S.
Warm, Kevin S.
Willey, Joshua J.
Wright, Christopher
Wright, David M.
Yerks, Robert A.
Young, Mark R.

Pfc.

Adams, Shonnah L.
Allen, Daniel J.
Allen, Kevin M.
Anderson, Shawn M.
Ayling, Christopher J.
Benton, Larnell E., Jr.
Birner, Robert F.
Bordayo, Hillary A.
Bosley, Kerri A.
Bottrell, Jeffrey P.
Brandt, Joseph H.
Brewer, Kandace L.
Brooks, Ambyr J.
Brooks, Darwin M.
Brown, Louis J.
Brown, Tyree A.
Burleson, Nicholas P.
Campbell, Patrick D.
Carroll, Mercedes R.
Carus, David A.
Cherry, Jason E.
Chupick, Robert
Cichanofsky,
Timothy M.
Clark, Daniel
Cronkright, Jason M.
Davis, Simone D.
Declar, Christy L.
Derivera, Nicholas J.
Deroche, Donald P.
Devos, James R.
Dewey, Nathan L.
Dine, April E.
Drayton, Warren T.
Elder, Jason L.
Elston, James H.
Fomby, Terry W.
Forejt, Randy C.
Foreman, Eryk C.
Foss, Lindsay R.
Foster, Ronald J.
Frank, Patrick D.
Gibbons, Andrew C.
Glynn, Erin M.
Graves, Jeanette R.
Haas, Michele R.
Harrod, Louis H. III
Hayes, Melissa B.
Heikell, Patricia R.
Holubik, Joshua V.
Howard, Nekia R.
Huff, Crystal M.
Hughes, Donald R.
Ingham, Catherine M.
Jackson, Jimeara M.
James, Joshua M.
James, Michael R.
Jensen, John P.
Jones, Jeremy L.
Kassin, Kevin M.
Keck, Nicholas E.
Keresztes, Amy E.
Ketterer, Clarence L.

King, Isaac D.
Kluskens, James E.
Kohn, Harrison D.
Kuchar, Laura A.
Lakomy, Adam L.
Lawson, Christopher
Lodovisi, Anthony
Lohrmann, Robyn M.
Luokkala, Brandon P.
Matthews, Kevin W.
Meder, Erik G.
Mesa, Melinda
Meyer, Matthew A.
Miel, Wyatt P.
Mikulka, Amanda J.
Moore, Matthew J.
Morris, Adam C.
Morrison, William K.
Nelson, Bjorn R.
Newlin, Ryan L.
Olson, Julie A.
Owen, Scott A.
Palethorpe, Troy A.
Parker, Ian B.
Parker, Patrick K.
Paynter, Craig L.
Peck, David E., Jr.
Peters, Jeremie D.
Peters, Jonathan M.
Plackowski, Derek
Posey, Jeremy S.
Pratt, Amanda S.
Prosser, Andrew F.
Provost, Shannon R.
Pushee, Todd W.
Raad, Scott A.
Rader, Jesse A.
Rahmanhill, Senegal
Randolph, Harold, Jr.
Reams, Sean M.
Riker, Malcolm L.
Rivard, Andrew M.
Roberts, Christopher
Robertshicks, Bruce
Roggenbuck, Clifford
Row, Mark J.
Schuster, Krista L.
Scott, Jermaine D.
Sebolt, Andrew A.
Shepherd, Sarah E.
Simecki, Timothy A.
Simon, Chad D.
Smith, James A.
Sparkling, Laurence
Stange, Jason L.
Stankevich, Timothy
Steig, Ryan J.
Stein, Laura B.
Stocker, Adam P.
Sturgis, Antonio D.
Sturos, Matthew J.
Szczepanek, Brian P.
Taylor, Beverly A.
Thompson, Daniel A.
Toma, Joseph M.
Tompkins, Raymond
Tribfeller, Laurie B.
Trotter, Robert T. II
Troupe, Steve E.
Turunen, Daniel J.
Tyler, Benjamin A.

Vandiver, Joshua J.
Vandusen, John C.
Vansingel, Brian J.
Vernon, George L. III
Vining, Ryan M.
Vollmer, Chad J.
Walls, Patrick L.
Walter, Robert J.
Walters, Raymond S.
Weaver, Adam R.
Weber, Jeremy P.
Weber, Ryan R.
Welch, Darryl V.
Western, Brandon L.
Wilburn, Levoy W.
Wilder, Nicholas G.
Williams, Francis S.
Williams, Gary S.
Williams, Ronja D.
Willmore, Mark A.
Wilson, Marcey H.
Wittliff, Thomas J.
Wright, Thomas G.
Wyciechowski,
Michael S.
Young, Christopher

Air Guard

Col.

Elliott, Richard G.
Makowske, James E.
Peplinski, Michael L.

Lt. Col.

Augustine, David L.
Frisbey, Wes L.
Raggio, James M.

Maj.

Bracewell, Beverly A.
Decoster, Robert S.
King, Christopher M.
White, Jeffrey C.

Capt.

Anderson, Michelle
Coenen, Julia F.
Leavelle, James P.
Meadows, Joseph G.
Regan, Cynthia A.
Seeley, Robert A.

1st Lt.

Bates, Ricco R.
Lee, Jerry R. Jr.
Melka, Christopher
Rubin, Jon K.

Chief Master Sgt.

Livingston, Stephen
Philo, Trena S.
Tolin, John R.

Senior Master Sgt.

Dobson, Robert E.
Elwart, Michael J.
Fajardo, Perfecto
Gephart, Kimberly T.
Groom, William G.
Kaminski, Daniel D.
Riviera, David E.
Master Sgt.
Armocida, Eric W.
Bailey, Mark A.
Brown, Robert P.

Conley, Francis C.
Dwyer, Linda S.
Gawel, Lawrence J.
Geliske, Barry S.
Gilkey, George T., Jr.
Hayward, Wayne M.
Holmes, Rex L.
Jacobson, James L.
Kirk, Kelly A.
Myers, David W.
Norton, Glenn J.
Owens, John N.
Perttunen, Brian W.
Pionk, Keith M.
Prak, Roger J.
Spencer, Charles E.
Vanderploeg, Daniel
Waldo, David M.
Tech. Sgt.
Cape, David A.
Clay, Donald R.
Centa, Eric J.

Feltman, Garold J.
Fineis, Steven M.
Heard, Tanya T.
Hunter, David T. III
Jason, Colon
Jones, Donald B.
Klein, Stephen D.
Lawson, Carlos
Logue, Kevin
Love, Eric C.
Lowery, Michael S.
McKay, Eric C.
Miller, Michael J.
Millhouse, James L.
Nordmark, Donald W.
Obreiter, David J.
Parks, Robert A. Jr.
Person, Kristina R.
Powell, Douglas K.
Roberts, Randall E.
Schlorke, Edward A.
Start, Laura G.

Warmuskerken,
Lawre
Staff Sgt.
Anderson, Linda R.
Bishop, Robert L.
Boggerty, Nathan E.
Coll, Joseph H.
Forfinski, Carrie A.
Franz, Johann II
Jones, Rebecca C.
Lucas, Matthew R.
Mack, Anthony D.
Matthews, Brian A.
Oshinsky, Michael R.
Perry, Felton J.
Schott, Shanna C.
Staffeld, Michael S.
Thompson, Randal H.
Wendell, Rio D.
Williams, Keyetta M.
Senior Airman
Alling, Christopher



New Key Leaders

Col. Michael Carr--Director of Army Personnel
Col. Gery Kosel--Military Liaison Team Chief in Latvia
Col. Roger F. Seidel--110th Fighter Wing Commander
Lt. Col. Daniel Fleming--110th Medical Squadron
Lt. Col. John Greenwade--63rd Troop Cmd. Battalion Cmdr.
Maj. Jeffery Broughton--107th Quartermaster Battalion Cmdr.

Burrow, Nickolaus C.
Farley, Michael D.
Ginzel, Michael G.
Halley, Allen L.
Henry, Douglas J. II
Hubbard, Jeffrey J.
Judson, Charles D.
King, Michael R.

Medaugh, Kyle W.
Meeuwse, Nathan J.
Monarch, Matthew J.
Ricker, Jason L.
Scalzi, Matthew S.
Thrombley, Julia K.
Wolters, Sara J.
Airman First Class

Hollie, Alfred H.
McClain, Marcus S.
Airman
Bowers, David L. Jr.
Crowder, Justinian
Franks, Barbara M.

Brig. Gen. Leonard C. Ward (ret.) Dies



Member of "greatest generation"

In a recent book, news anchor Tom Brokaw referred to those who lived, worked and served in our armed forces during the World War II era as the greatest generation--common people capable of uncommon valor. And if you talk to any of them, they will tell you that they were only doing what needed to be

done. They didn't consider themselves heroes. Nor did they consider themselves special. They were committed to doing what they had to do, but they saved the nation. And when it was over, they returned to build America. To pull it out of the dregs of war and go on. They were my parents, they were many of your parents, or perhaps yourself, and they were so very typical of Leonard Ward.... (Taken from the eulogy of Brig. Gen. Leonard C. Ward by Brig. Gen. Mitch LeClaire, April 9, 2001.)

Former 46th Infantry Division Commander and Assistant Chief, National Guard Bureau, Brig. Gen. Leonard C. Ward (ret) passed away March 20, 2001. He was 83.

Ward began his military career with the Michigan Army National Guard in 1939 after he was commissioned by ROTC. He entered active duty with the 32nd Infantry Division in 1940. Overseas, during World War II, he served as platoon leader, company commander and group staff officer in engineer units supporting divisions of V Corps, First Army in Europe. From 1952 to 1959, Ward commanded the 107th Engineer Battalion. He served as division commander of the 46th Infantry Division from 1967 to 1968 and then as the Assistant Chief, National Guard Bureau for Army until he retired in 1972.

A Special Thank You

Our son, Sgt. Curtis J. Breton, a member of the 107th Quartermaster Battalion, died April 20, 2001 in an automobile accident.

We would like to thank all the members of the Michigan National Guard, full-time, M-Day, state employees and retired Guardsmen for their support and generosity. It overwhelmed our family with over 100 National Guard personnel attending the funeral to show their last respect to Curtis. Thank you all for sending so many beautiful flowers, cards and contributions to our local 4-H organization. We continue to receive cards and e-mail messages from the Michigan National Guard family. We truly appreciate all the coordination that took place between the National Guard, fire departments and funeral home to show a last tribute to Curtis.

Sincerely,

Fred, Connie and Kimberly Breton
Erin Swihart and family



TAPS

Maj. Robert E. Fansler (ret), 72, Jan. 15, 2001
Col Dennis C. Alm (ret), 63, Jan. 29, 2001
Staff Sgt. Joseph F. Laurich (ret), 74, Feb. 5, 2001
Lt. Col. Milo C. Thompson (ret), 76, Feb. 14, 2001
Maj. Michael H. Johnson (ret), 57, Feb. 15, 2001
Sgt. Maj. John E. Failing (ret), 72, Feb. 24, 2001
Warrant Officer Four Leo M. Vito, Jr. (ret), 45, Mar. 4, 2001
Warrant Officer Albert Blankenship (ret), 79, Mar. 16, 2001
Brig. Gen. Leonard C. Ward (ret), 83, Mar. 20, 2001
Lt. Col. Robert A. Walters (ret), 66, Mar. 23, 2001
Sgt. 1st Class Lloyd G. Behl (ret), 76, Mar. 29, 2001
Sgt. 1st Class James R. Bakeman (ret), 49, Mar. 30, 2001
Sgt. Curtis J. Breton, 23, Apr. 20, 2001
Tech. Sgt. Edward F. J. Weber (ret), 63, Apr. 23, 2001
Spc. Anthony L. Covington, 38, Apr. 29, 2001

Next Issue...

In the Bush at Camp Grayling

Plus

- Patrolling the Perimeter;
Processing Paperwork
- Alaska Thunder

Staff Sgt. Bobby Napier, Battery C, 1st Battalion, 182nd Field Artillery silently waits for the “enemy” in the tall Camp Grayling brush. Napier, his unit and approximately 5,000 other Michigan National Guardsmen will be at Camp Grayling for annual training Aug. 11-25. Read about their training in the Fall issue of “The Wolverine Guard.” (Photo by Spc. Robert Reed, 1st Battalion, 182nd Field Artillery)

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